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| APPLICATION NO.                  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/581,531                       | 02/16/2007  | Martin Stickel       | 2003P01010WOUS      | 3940             |
| 46726                            | 7590        | 06/26/2009           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION  |             |                      | CAMPBELL, THOR S    |                  |
| INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT |             |                      |                     |                  |
| 100 BOSCH BOULEVARD              |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
| NEW BERN, NC 28562               |             |                      | 3742                |                  |
|                                  |             |                      | MAIL DATE           | DELIVERY MODE    |
|                                  |             |                      | 06/26/2009          | PAPER            |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                        |                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |
|                              | 10/581,531             | STICKEL, MARTIN     |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |
|                              | /Thor S. Campbell/     | 3742                |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 22-43 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 22-43 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 June 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/02/06.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 22, 32, 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wade (US 941215).

Wade discloses:

In reference to claim:

22. A heating device for fluids, the heating device being adapted for mounting thereof in a continuous flow heater, the heating device comprising: at least one heating element 12 configured as an electric resistance heater; and at least one heat exchanging element 17 for the exchange of heat between the heating element and a fluid, the heat exchanging element being connected in a heat-conducting manner to the heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the heating element to the fluid and the heat exchanging element forming an integral housing component 10 of a pressure-resistant and temperature-resistant continuous flow heater and having a substantially planar central area on which the heating element is mounted.

32. A continuous flow heater comprising: a heating device including: a heating element; and at least one heat exchanging element for the exchange of heat between the heating element and a fluid, the heat exchanging element being connected in a heat-conducting manner to the heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the heating element to the fluid, the heat exchanging element being connected in a heat-conducting manner to the heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the heating element to the fluid and the heat exchanging element forming an integral housing component of a pressure-resistant and temperature-resistant continuous flow heater and having a substantially planar central area on which the heating element is mounted; and a molded part connected positively to the heating device in a pressure-resistant and thermally stable manner to form a fluid

chamber, the molded part having at least one inlet and at least one outlet 20, 21.

39. A method for producing a continuous flow heater comprising the steps: a. producing a heating device including at least one heating element configured as an electric resistance heater and at least one heat exchanging element for the exchange of heat between the heating element and a fluid, the heat exchanging element being connected in a heat-conducting manner to the heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the heating element to the fluid and the heat exchanging element forming an integral housing component of a pressure-resistant and temperature-resistant continuous flow heater and having a substantially planar central area on which the heating element is mounted; b. producing a molded part with at least one inlet and at least one outlet; and c. positively joining the heating device and the molded part so that the assembly is pressure-resistant and thermally stable.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23-31, 34-38, 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wade in view of Wermbter et al. (US 2004/0074893).

Wade discloses the claimed invention (see above) except:

Wermbter discloses:

In reference to claim:

23. The heating device according to claim 22, wherein the heating element comprises a plurality of electrically interconnected heating sections that substantially cover the entire central area except for a mounting area that provides access for mounting through the heating sections.

24. The heating device according to claim 23, wherein the heating element includes at least one heating circuit through electrical connection of

corresponding heating sections.

25. The heating device according to claim 22, wherein the heating element is formed from a material having a positive temperature characteristic (PTC). It is noted that all heating elements have an region in which the show PTC.

26. The heating device according to claim 22 and further comprising a temperature monitoring device disposed on the heat exchanging element that is in good heat-conducting connection with the heat exchanging element.

27. The heating device according to claim 26, wherein the heating element comprises a plurality of electrically interconnected heating sections that substantially cover the entire central area except for a mounting area that provides access for mounting through the heating sections and the temperature monitoring element is disposed in the mounting area adjacent to the heating element.

28. The heating device according to claim 26, wherein the temperature monitoring element is formed by an NTC resistance. The use of ptc or ntc temp. sensors is known and obvious. (Schilling)

29. The heating device according to claim 22, wherein the heat exchanging element consists of a material that exhibits poor thermal conductivity in a lateral direction. The term poor is relative term without specific meaning.

30. The heating device according to claim 22 and further comprising a contacting device disposed on the heat exchanging element that is electrically connected to the electrical elements of the heating element.

31. The heating device according to claim 30, wherein the contacting device is electrically connected to each heating circuit of the heating element and the temperature monitoring device.

33. The continuous flow heater device according to claim 32 and further comprising a temperature monitoring device disposed on the heat exchanging element of the heating device in an area situated close to the inlet in the molded part.

34. A method for producing a heating device for fluids, the method comprising the steps of: a. providing a semi-finished product having poor lateral thermal conductivity; b. forming a substantially flat heat exchanging element from the semi-finished product having an inner surface and an outer surface and a substantially planar central area; c. applying a heating element embodied as

an electrical resistance heater to the central area of the heat exchanging element leaving a mounting area; and d. applying a temperature monitoring device to the mounting area so that this is not influenced by the heating element during operation of the continuous flow heater.

35. The method according to claim 34, wherein applying a temperature monitoring device to the mounting area includes applying the temperature monitoring device directly to the heat exchanging element.

36. The method according to claim 34 and further comprising applying a contacting device to the heat exchanging element and electrically connecting to the electrical elements of the heating device.

37. The method according to claim 34, wherein the heating element and the temperature monitoring device are applied to the same side of the heat exchanging element.

38. The method according to claim 34, wherein the heating element and the temperature monitoring device together with the contacting device are applied to the outer surface of the heat exchanging element.

Wade disclose the fluid heater, Wermbter discloses the specifics of the heating element as claimed, it would have been obvious to one of skill having routine creativity and rational ingenuity to replace the outdated heater of Wade with the more advanced heater of Wermbter since Wade is ready for improvement by known means.

40. The method according to claim 39, wherein joining together the heating device and molded part includes inserting a sealing ring therebetween. The use of sealing rings and gaskets is known in the art and obvious.

41. A dishwasher for washing items, the dishwasher comprising: a container for retaining items to be washed; and a heating device including: a heating element; and at least one heat exchanging element for the exchange of heat between the heating element and a fluid, the heat exchanging element being connected in a heat-conducting manner to the heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the heating element to the fluid, the heat exchanging element being connected in a heat-conducting manner to the heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the heating element to the fluid and the heat exchanging element forming an integral housing component of a pressure-resistant and temperature-resistant continuous flow heater and having a substantially planar central area on which the heating element is mounted. The use of Wade to supply heated water to a dishwasher is an obvious design choice.

42. A dishwasher for washing items, the dishwasher comprising: a container for retaining items to be washed; and a continuous flow heater having a heating device and a molded part, the heating device including a heating element and at least one heat exchanging element for the exchange of heat between the heating element and a fluid, the heat exchanging element being connected in a heat-conducting manner to the heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the heating element to the fluid, the heat exchanging element being connected in a heat-conducting manner to the heating element and the fluid so as to transfer the heat generated by the heating element to the fluid and the heat exchanging element forming an integral housing component of a pressure-resistant and temperature-resistant continuous flow heater and having a substantially planar central area on which the heating element is mounted, and the molded part being connected positively to the heating device in a pressure-resistant and thermally stable manner to form a fluid chamber, the molded part having at least one inlet and at least one outlet. The use of Wade to supply heated water to a dishwasher is an obvious design choice.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Thor S. Campbell/ whose telephone number is 571-272-4776. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 5:30AM-2:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tu Hoang can be reached on 571-272-4780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thor S. Campbell/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3742

tsc